

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 are pending in the above identified application. Claims 17-22 have been withdrawn from consideration in this application and are herein canceled without prejudice. Claim 16 has been canceled. Claims 1-9, 15, and 23 have been amended in order to clarify the invention. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 23.

### **Restriction Requirement**

The Examiner, in a previous action, restricted the claims into two groups with group I including claims 1-16 and 23. Applicants have chosen Group I to prosecute in the present application and have herein canceled claims included in Group II. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application based on the claims of Group II at a later date.

### **Claim Objections**

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 and pointed out that there is an extra word 'an' in the first line of claim 15. Applicants, therefore, have amended claim 15 to remove the extra word.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kramer (US 6,583,934). However, Kramer does not teach "a diffraction grating integrally formed in the first section," "a second section integrally formed with the first section," "a third section integrally formed with the second section," and "wherein the first section, the second section, and the third section are integrally formed in a single piece," as is recited in Claim 1. Further, Kramer does not teach a "means for separating an input light beam into constituent parts with an integrally formed single piece component," as is recited in claim 23.

Kramer teaches a surface-relief transmission grating with improved durability (*See* Kramer, col. 2, line 55 through col. 14, line 16 and Figures 1-4). Kramer further teaches various optical devices utilizing such a grating (*See* Kramer, col. 14, line 17, *et. seq.* and Figures 5-28). However, nowhere does Kramer teach or suggest an optical device where “a diffraction grating integrally formed in the first section,” “a second section integrally formed with the first section,” “a third section integrally formed with the second section,” and “wherein the first section, the second section, and the third section are integrally formed in a single piece,” as is recited in Claim 1 or having “means for separating an input light beam into constituent parts with an integrally formed single piece component,” as is recited in claim 23. Instead, Kramer teaches optical devices with discrete optical components that are housed in a housing. With respect to Figure 5, for example, Kramer teaches that “the optical components are enclosed within a housing 100, which protects the optical components from contaminants.” (Kramer, col. 14, lines 19-21). Similar teachings are made regarding various embodiments of the optical devices taught by Kramer. (*See, e.g.,* Kramer, col. 20, lines 13-20 and Figures 5, 6, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 13, 14, and 19).

The Examiner has suggested, with reference to claims 7-16, that Kramer teaches integrally formed collimating lens. As an example, the Examiner points to a barrel/ferrul 183/184 shown in Figure 10A of Kramer as being integrally formed in a first section. *See*, Office Action, p. 5. Additionally, the Examiner points to the embodiment shown in, for example, figures 5 and 6 of Kramer as showing integrally formed first section, diffraction grating, second section, and third section. *See*, Office Action, p. 6. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Kramer teaches discrete optical components mounted into a housing. The barrel/ferrul 183/184 shown in Figures 10A -10C and 11-A-11C also appear to be individual components that are positioned and housed in housing 100. Nothing in Kramer suggests that barrel/ferrul 183/184 is integrally formed with housing 100. Further, as discussed above, figures 5 and 6 of Kramer show individual components positioned and housed in a housing and gain does not show that any of those components are “integrally formed” with the housing. Therefore, Kramer does not teach that “a diffraction grating integrally formed in the first section,” “a second section integrally formed with the first section,” “a third section integrally formed with the second section,” and “wherein the first section, the second section, and the third section are integrally formed in a single piece,” as is recited in Claim 1 or having “means for separating an input light beam into constituent parts with an integrally formed single piece component,” as is recited in claim 23.

Further, since Kramer teaches discrete components mounted in a housing, it is not obvious to one skilled in the art from Kramer to produce “a diffraction grating integrally formed in the first section,” “a second section integrally formed with the first section,” “a third section integrally formed with the second section,” and “wherein the first section, the second section, and the third section are integrally formed in a single piece,” as is recited in Claim 1 or having “means for separating an input light beam into constituent parts with an integrally formed single piece component,” as is recited in claim 23.

Claims 1 and 23, then, are allowable over Kramer. Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 1.

**Conclusion**

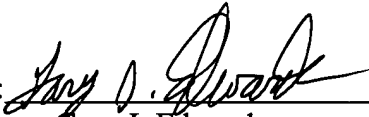
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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